2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Newsletter**

**Attendance**

Staff are working hard in school to support the children to make good progress in their learning with the aim of meeting or exceeding their goals.  Our attendance data tells us we have a growing proportion of children who are persistently absent (ie below 90%).  Feedback from teachers, their work (and national research) shows us there is in many cases, a direct link with children not achieving their potential and higher levels of absence.

Whilst illness accounts for a proportion of absence, it is absence through holidays in term-time and other reasons linked to home circumstances that are having a significant impact on attendance and learning.  Our Attendance Policy requires that I write to/meet with parents/carers whose absence is below 90% and will be taking time to follow this up in the next week or two.  We want to work with families to develop plans to support good attendance to support both the academic and social/emotional development of your child and this will be the focus of my communications.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that unless there are exceptional circumstances (which is very rare), that I will be unable to authorise holiday during term time.  Absences that meet 10 sessions (5 days) in a 10 week consecutive school period will trigger a referral to WSCC who may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).  A Fixed Penalty Notice is for 120 and must be paid within 28 days.  If payment is offered within, the first 21 days of it being issued the payment is 60.

**Homework**

Children are set homework on a weekly basis with the intention of embedding/extending their learning.  If your child is not receiving this, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.  In some classes it is noticeable that engagement in homework is low.  If you are not already doing so, please can I ask that you talk with your child about their homework (a gentle reminder may be all that's needed!).  We really appreciate the time and support of parents/carers working with us to support learning at home.  If your child is struggling in any way or there is a reason as to why they may not be able to complete the homework, please contact your child's class teacher.

**Safeguarding Training for Volunteers**

Many of you have kindly offered to help out on school trips, Forest Friday, reading and other special events in school.  Before you are able to do this, you must complete our safeguarding training, provide two references and a DBS check (the office will assist you with this).

We will be running our next safeguarding training session on 20th February from 2pm to 3pm.  If you wish to sign up, please let the office know.

**Forest Friday is back!**

After half term our Forest Friday sessions will return.  From Friday 23rd February, **Kangaroos**class will be out in the mornings and **Tigers**will be in the afternoon.  Please ensure that your child comes into school wearing warm clothing, shoes/trainers and brings in waterproofs and a pair of wellies (to be left in school).  We are in need of volunteers for both sessions to be able to provide activities for the children.  The more helpers, the more activities we can do.  Please let the office know if you are able to help out.

**Home/school communications**

From Monday 5th February, all home/school communications will be made via our newsletter.  Please ensure that you also communicate with the school by email or phone and **not** via whatsapp.Thank you.

**NSPCC Assemblies and Workshops**

To support our important work on safeguarding, we are delighted to announce that volunteers from NSPCC will return again this year to deliver separate workshops with Year 2 and Year 5 on Monday 4th March during the afternoon.  The focus is '**Speak Out Stay Safe.**'  Further details to follow.

As part of the NSPCC support work, all children will be watching an NSPCC pre-recorded assembly delivered by Ant and Dec!  These assemblies will take place on Monday 26th February.  For year groups not involved in the above mentioned workshops, there will be a focus lesson their class teacher will deliver in class that week.

**Children's Mental Health Week**

As it's Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week next week we will be holding our annual Taskmaster Week. Children across the school will be working together to develop a range of skills including teamwork, problem solving and reasoning. The TV show's creator, Alex Horne, has kindly made two assemblies just for Sidlesham that the children will be able to enjoy on Monday and Friday. Also, as next **Friday is Express Yourself Day, the children are encouraged to come in dressed how they wish to express themselves.** They can be as creative as they like but we ask those who can, to bring in 2 to donate to the wonderful children's mental health charity, Place2Be.

**Hummingbirds Club**

After half term, we are running **'Hummingbirds Club'**that will be open to all children.  If your child(ren) would like to come along, have a snack and play board games, team games & activities to encourage cooperative play, reading, drawing/colouring, films and playing outside when the weather is nice, they are very welcome.  We can have up to 30 children per session.

We offer breakfast in the mornings and a snack in the afternoon.  Session times are Monday to Friday 7.30am to 8.30am ( 5), Monday to Thursday 3.10pm to 4.10pm ( 5) and 4.10pm to 5pm ( 5).  Each session must be booked and paid for in advance via ParentPay.  For those that wish to use childcare vouchers please speak to the office.

A notice period of 24 hours is required to cancel any booking(s).  If we do not receive a cancellation notice before the 24 hour period, then the session will be charged at the normal rate.  Absence due to your child being unwell will be refunded.

**Taskmaster Club**

You can now book your children on to Mr Pledger's Taskmaster Club for next term. Visit <https://taskmastereducation.com/clubs> to use our school code A2W0K, to register. The next round of Taskmaster Club will begin on Wednesday 21st February.

**Dates for your diary**

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| Safer Internet Day | Tuesday 6th February |
| Children's Mental Health Week | 5th-9th February |
| Express Yourself Day | Friday 9th February |
| Half Term | Monday 12th - Friday 16th February |
| INSET Day | Monday 19th February |
| World Book Day | **Wednesday 6th March (change of date)** |
| House event: Spelling Bee | Wednesday 13th March |
| Annual reports  | Friday 22nd March  |
| Parent/Carer/teacher Consultation Evenings (We will open up bookings after half term) | Tuesday 26th March & Wednesday 27th March 3:30pm - 6:00pm   |
| Last day of term | Thursday 28th March |

Have a good weekend

Mrs Norton

Interim Headteacher